

We claim:

1. A method for indicating criteria used for organizing electronic objects, comprising steps of:
 - selecting, by a user, an element of an electronic object in a manner consistent with defined selection settings; and
 - concluding, responsive to the selecting, that the user has indicated a criterion for organizing electronic objects.
2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the selection settings.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step of selecting a word, a phrase, or one or more contiguous characters.
4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the word, the phrase, or the characters is/are contained in a text document.
5. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the word, the phrase, or the characters is/are contained in an e-mail message.
6. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step of selecting a portion of an image file.

1 7. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step
2 of selecting one or more words, phrases, and characters.

1 8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step
2 of selecting a portion of one or more image files.

1 9. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the selected
2 criterion.

1 10. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of using the selected
2 criterion to format a rule for organizing stored documents.

1 11. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using a
2 mouse device in the selecting step.

1 12. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using a
2 light pen device in the selecting step.

1 13. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using a
2 plasma panel device in the selecting step.

1 14. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using an
2 audio mechanism in the selecting step.

1 15. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using a
2 video mechanism in the selecting step.

1 16. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the defined selection settings include swiping
2 an element of a particular electronic object multiple times.

1 17. The method according to Claim 9, wherein, responsive to the selecting step, the index
2 thereby becomes adaptive.

1 18. A system for indicating criteria used for organizing electronic objects, comprising:
2 means for selecting, by a user, an element of an electronic object in a manner consistent
3 with defined selection settings;
4 means for concluding, responsive to the means for selecting, that the user has indicated a
5 criterion for organizing electronic objects; and
6 means for using the selected criterion to format a rule for organizing stored documents.

1 19. A computer program product for indicating criteria used for organizing electronic objects,
2 the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and
3 comprising:

computer-readable program code means for selecting, by a user, an element of an electronic object in a manner consistent with defined selection settings;

computer-readable program code means for concluding, responsive to the computer-readable program code means for selecting, that the user has indicated a criterion for organizing electronic objects; and

computer-readable program code means for using the selected criterion to format a rule for organizing stored documents.